



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY HONORED FOR 'WATCHDOG' ROLE ***Taxpayer Association Lauds Business Fee Repeal, Managed Competition***

San Diego County received two "Golden Watchdog" awards from the San Diego County Taxpayers Association last night. The awards recognized last year's repeal of a County business license fee and ongoing efforts to reengineer County departments and foster competition between County employees and private firms.

In all, the County received 10 Golden Watchdog nominations from the group, which advocates prudent spending policies by governmental agencies. Among the programs nominated for the award was the Do It Better By Suggestion, or DIBBS program, which rewards employees with cash payments for ideas that save the County money. Over the past two years, the program has saved more than \$4 million.

The County Treasurer-Tax Collector's office was nominated for its handling of the County investment pool in the wake of the Orange County bankruptcy, and for its investigation of a questionable bond deal by the San Ysidro School District.

"It's gratifying to be honored for our efforts to provide taxpayers with the best, most cost-effective services possible," said Chairwoman Pam Slater of the County Board of Supervisors.

"I'm very proud of all of our employees, and these awards just show that others also recognize their excellence," said County Chief Administrative Officer Larry Prior.

The fourth annual Golden Watchdog & Golden Fleece Awards were held Thursday night, April 15, at the Hyatt Regency San Diego.